

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 251

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jean Hawkins on her selection as Middle School Teacher of the Year for Sumner County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Jean Hawkins is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hawkins has recently been selected Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Sumner County School System, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Jean Hawkins credits her passion for learning to her mother, Evelyn Kesterson, a retired teacher and school librarian; she says, "My mother taught me that if you are a true life-long learner, no obstacles will stop you from accomplishing your goals"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hawkins holds a Master's degree in Education, and she was named to *Who's Who Among American Teachers* last year; and

WHEREAS, she has served with acumen and alacrity as a middle school science teacher for thirty-five exemplary years, and she has taught at Knox Doss Middle School since 1990; and

WHEREAS, Jean Hawkins believes in a hands-on, learning experience, and she encourages her students' natural curiosity and love of learning about themselves and their environment; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hawkins is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, this Teacher of the Year honor is that much more special because Mrs. Hawkins was diagnosed with breast cancer last August, and she has continued to teach throughout her treatment; and

WHEREAS, she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, her many professional accomplishments aside, Mrs. Hawkins is most appreciative of the love, strong support, and companionship she shares with her husband, Jack, and children, David and Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, Jean Hawkins epitomizes the truly dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Jean Hawkins on being chosen as Middle School Teacher of the Year for Sumner County, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.